

Retired Pay Newsletter

October 2008



The Director's Corner by CDR Edward McFarland:

As the newly appointed director for Retired Pay Operations, we wish farewell to Mr. Douglas W. Smith, who has accepted another position within the Defense Finance and Account Service.

As Director, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am an active duty Navy Commander, with over 15 years on active duty. During this period I was the Supply Officer on two Amphibious Ships and a forward deployed Amphibious Staff. I have five overseas deployments in support of numerous operations, including an individual augmentation deployment on the ground in Iraq. I served ashore in a variety of positions, most recently as an acquisition professional and financial manager at the Naval Air Systems Command prior to reporting to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to my assignment to the Retired and Annuity Pay Operation, I served as the Director of Centralized Processing for the Military Pay Operation. I look forward to this assignment and hope to meet and exceed the expectations of our military retirees and annuitants who have served and sacrificed in honor of our great nation.

Welcome to the 3rd and final issue for this year of the DFAS Retired Pay Newsletter. A hard copy of the End-of-Year newsletter will be sent to your correspondence address on file sometime during the month of December. This issue contains information on the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA), the upcoming CRSC/CRDP Open Season, and Paid up SBP/RSFPP information. Retirees who elected SBP during an Open Season will have their paid-up SBP counters (i.e. determination of months paid) affected differently depending on the Open Season in which they participated. Also included is a reminder to keep your account status updated, security concerns and myPay advantages.” Read more at <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/october2008/directorscorner.html>

Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance:

Section 644 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008 created the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA). This allowance is payable to all Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuitants whose annuity has been offset for receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). This allowance becomes payable for the month of October 2008 in the monthly amount of \$50. This amount will be increased as per the following schedule:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
October 2008	\$50
October 2009	\$60
October 2010	\$70
October 2011	\$80
October 2012	\$90
October 2013	\$100

The payment remains at \$100 from October 2013, until March 1, 2016, when this allowance is currently scheduled to terminate.

The initial payment will be made on Nov. 3, 2008 representing entitlement for the month of October 2008. This allowance is taxable. Your DIC payment address will be used for your SSIA payment. If you are currently receiving your DIC payment from the DVA at your home address, your SSIA payment will also be sent there. If your DIC payment is paid via electronic funds transfer (EFT) by the DVA, your DIC electronic payment address will be used for the SSIA payment.

If you have any questions concerning this allowance you may contact the Cleveland Center at 1-800-321-1080, between 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or write to Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, P.O. Box 7131, London, KY 40742-7131. You may also use our toll-free fax number of 1-800-982-8459. Please include the retired member's name and Social Security Number (SSN) as well as your name, address, and SSN on all correspondence.

<http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/october2008/specialsurvivorindemnityallowance.html>

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) Open Season:

If a retiree is eligible for both CRDP and CRSC, he/she may participate in the CRDP/CRSC Open Season. This annual Open Season election period is Jan. 1 to Jan. 31, 2009, and allows the retiree to choose which payment is preferred (Federal law states that the retiree can be in receipt of CRDP or CRSC; not both).

In late December, eligible retirees will be mailed a CRDP/CRSC Open Season Election Form. The retiree needs to return the form only if making a change from CRDP to CRSC or vice versa. If the retiree prefers to keep things the way they are, *do nothing*. The payments the retiree now receives will continue uninterrupted.

To help the retiree make a more informed decision, the form will include a comparison of the CRSC and CRDP entitlement amounts as well as information about the collection actions and taxes to which each type of payment is subject.

If the retiree wants to change from CRDP to CRSC or vice versa, the form must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2009. If the form is dated after this date, it will not be processed and the current payments will continue uninterrupted.

The change in the payment will be effective with the first business day of February 2009. Due to a 30-day processing timeframe, the retiree may not receive their first payment until the first business day of March 2009, including a retroactive adjustment for the payment that would have been paid on the first business day of February.

The retiree's election will remain in effect unless changed from CRDP to CRSC or vice versa in a subsequent annual Open Season. Read more at <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/october2008/crscandcrdpopenseason2009.html>

Keeping Your Account Updated:

It is important that all retirees periodically review your military retirement pay account status to ensure all information is up-to-date. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) relies on current personal information to be able to provide the highest level of customer service. Retirees should notify DFAS as soon as possible about any change in marital or family status, beneficiaries, mailing address and bank account information. This ensures that your retirement pay and other important communications are received and provides for proper monthly premium deductions, if applicable. The new Beneficiary Card can be found at <http://www.dfas.mil>, click Retired Pay then Beneficiary Card in the dropdown menu.

People can also make changes in any category, through **myPay** to make the update and confirm the change; or by calling the Customer Service Center at 1-800-321-1080. Other contact options are through email via **myPay**, by toll free fax at 1-800-469-6559 or by regular mail sent to:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U. S. Military Retirement Pay
P. O. Box 7130,
London, KY 40742-7130.

Using **myPay** is the most convenient and timely way to self-service your account. The other means will also accomplish the goal, namely, to keep your account information updated! Read more at <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/october2008/keepingyouraccountupdated.html>

Paid-up Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP):

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is dedicated to helping to protect against identity theft and fraud. In the continued effort to ensure privacy and security, myPay has some valuable information to protect personally identifiable information.

What about your Privacy Information?

- DFAS does not sell customer information
- DFAS does not share your information with persons, companies, or organizations outside of DFAS
- DFAS limits information sharing with other government agencies (for example, the Department of Veterans Affairs) to the extent required to properly maintain your account, or as legally required
- DFAS requires persons or organizations that provide services on our behalf to keep your information confidential. We also expect those persons or organizations to use your information only to provide the services we've asked them to perform;
- DFAS communicates to our employees about the need to protect your information. We have established safeguards (physical, electronic and procedural) to protect this information. We require that you answer specific questions when you call the Customer Service Center or submit the electronic Request Form, for purposes of identity verification.

Data security and privacy are always a concern and *myPay* is no exception. Current and future *myPay* account holders can be assured that DFAS is committed to providing access to information and management using the latest in online security. In fact, *Smart.docs* is a very secure electronic confirmation of self-service changes the member has made through *myPay*.

myPay has always met or exceeded industry security measures to protect user privacy and provide greater identity theft protection, that's why more than 3.9 million DFAS customers, including active duty military, National Guard, retirees and annuitants use *myPay*.

As a recipient of this electronic newsletter you are already participating through myPay. But be sure to encourage your fellow retirees and annuitants to get on board with myPay. Read more at <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/october2008/paid-uprsfppandsbpupdate.html>

Security Concerns and myPay Advantages:

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DFAS requires persons or organizations that provide services on our behalf to keep your information confidential. We also expect those persons or organizations to use your information only to provide the services we've asked them to perform;

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DFAS Museum:

Corporate Communications has embarked on a treasure hunt of sorts – rummaging through warehouses, attics, and other imaginable and unimaginable places in search of artifacts to be put on display in a new Defense Finance and Accounting Service museum that will be created in Indianapolis' Maj. Gen. Emmett J. Bean Federal Center.

With the closing and consolidation of numerous DFAS sites under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act, former DFAS Director Zack Gaddy asked Corporate Communications to develop a plan for a museum. The intent is to preserve the history of DFAS before it is lost.

The new museum will house memorabilia, photographs and documents from Army, Navy and Air Force finance commands whose functions have since been assumed by various DFAS sites, as well as the agency that was created in 1991. It is tentatively planned to open in late spring 2009.

"It's important that we preserve our heritage so that all employees, current and retired, fully understand the importance of their support to the warfighter. This museum will leave a visual legacy for our future employees," said Lee Lopez, DFAS chief of staff, who has been instrumental in the plan for a museum.

The Corporate Communications team of Deb Harris, Jeff Jones and I visited the newly created [Loring Military Heritage Center](#), a museum dedicated to and operated on the shuttered Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, Maine, and various museums in Indianapolis including the [Indiana War Memorial Museum](#), in search of ideas.

Some of the ideas, although not yet finalized, include featuring a DFAS history wall and mural, and displays dedicated to past and present directors, major awards received by the agency, each of the closed and enduring sites, the agency's values and select employees to name just a few.

Some of the items found thus far are ribbon cutting ceremony photographs and flags from several of the agency's closed sites, a 1953 picture of the opening ceremony for the building which is now home to DFAS Indianapolis and a 1963 picture illustrating how 395,000 documents sub-vouchers stored in 57 boxes were reduced to just two magnetic tapes and 21 rolls of microfilm.

While the Corporate Communications treasure hunt has yielded results, it can't do it alone. It needs the help of present and past employees to find agency memorabilia for the museum that will track Defense Department finance operations through the years. Donations can be made by contacting Lori Beasley at (317) 510-8799 or lori.beasley@dfas.mil. Donors will be asked to complete an inventory sheet with a

detailed description of the items and will then be given a receipt that can be used for tax purposes.

The Maj. Gen. Emmett J. Bean Federal Center was the one time home of a museum dedicated to the Army Finance Corps, which operated out of the building before DFAS was created and moved into the building in 1991. That museum which featured items solely related to Army finance and accounting was moved to Fort Jackson, S.C., when Fort Benjamin Harrison was closed under BRAC.

The new DFAS museum will consist of about 900 square feet and will be located on the south end of the 2nd floor in the space vacated by SATO. Aside from numerous display cases it will also include a flat screen television viewing and seating area where visitors can watch a video about the history of DFAS.

Corporate Communications is in the process of finalizing the plan and budget for approval by the director. It hopes to receive approval for the concept by the end of October and to begin work in the museum next year. Read more at <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/october2008/dfasmuseum.html>

Tax Statements Available on myPay:

Below is the schedule for viewing your tax statement on myPay for the tax year 2008:

December 10, 2008	Retiree Account Statement
December 15, 2008	Retired 1099R
December 15, 2008	Annuitant Account Statement
December 15, 2008	Annuitant 1099R

NOTICE:

For assistance with questions or problems with pay issues. Please contact us by using the following Web site: <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredpay/contactus.html>